

In the Drawings:

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to FIG. 121. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 118-124, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 118-124.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet including FIGS. 118-124.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is sincerely thanked for the thorough identification of errors in the original Specification, Drawings and Claims.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 2-9 are pending in the application, with claims 2, 4 and 7 being the independent claims. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the subject matter of the amended claims is contained in the application as originally filed. Because the foregoing changes introduce no new matter, their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement is filed herewith.

Objections to the Specification

In the Specification, the Examiner's suggested changes have been made with a single exception as follows. On page 78, line 22, the Examiner suggested inserting the words -(not shown)- after the letter B. However, in the original Specification, an error was made in referring the reader to Figure 41 to identify lines A and B. This error has been corrected in the instant Amendment by changing numeral "41" in line 1 of page 79 to the correct numeral --60--.

Objections to the Drawings

In the Drawings, a "Replacement Sheet" of Drawings has been submitted to replace the original Figures 118 through 124. This replacement sheet changes the number of one Figure from its original "12" to the proper -- 121 --.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and 103

Original Claim 1 (now cancelled) was rejected by the Examiner in the first Patent Office Action mailed November 16, 2005 as anticipated by the teachings of van Dijk et al., U.S. Patent

5,338,413. Van Dijk et al. teach electrochemically initiated polymerization of an intrinsic electrically conductive polymer onto a porous structure containing an intrinsically conductive polymer deposited previously by straight chemical practice into the pores. Van Dijk et al. further teach a continuous process as one embodiment.

New Claims

New Claims 2 through 9 have been added with this Amendment. New Claims 2, 4, and 7 are independent.

New independent Claim 2 of this Amendment claims a method for continuously electroplating a metal-based deposit onto a surface portion formed by electroplateable material, and further that the electroplateable material comprise an electrically conductive polymer. The inclusion of the “metal-based” limitation clearly distinguishes an inventive step over the teachings of van Dijk et al. Important terminology in this new Claim 2 finds Specification support as follows.

- “Continuous electroplating” is defined in Paragraph 226 of the original Specification.
- “Metal-based” is defined in Paragraph 38 of the original Specification.
- “Electroplateable material” is defined in Paragraph 39 of the original Specification.

New independent Claims 4 and 7 use terminology similar to that of Claim 2. It is argued that the article claimed by Claim 7 is unique and could not be practically produced by an alternate process. For example, the article produced by the continuous processing as defined in the present Specification would have unique characteristics which would be difficult or impractical to achieve by alternate batch processing.

It is advanced that new independent claims 2, 4 and 7 are novel and inventive and in condition for allowance. Dependent claim 3 (from Claim 2), claims 5 and 6 (from Claim 4) and 8 and 9 (from Claim 7) are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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